

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6 and 9-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 10 and 11 are amended, and claims 5, 7, 8 and 12 are canceled. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing claim amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants thank Examiner Ngo for the courtesy extended to Applicants' representative, Mr. Luo, during the March 17, 2005 personal interview. The substance of the personal interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the references listed on Form PTO-1449 submitted with a January 10, 2005 Information Disclosure Statement. A courtesy copy of the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed herein for the Examiner's convenience.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent 6,141,512 to Nagano et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Nagano discloses all elements recited in the claims. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Nagano does not disclose a process cartridge that is attached to and detached from the main casing through the front surface of the main casing; an image reader that includes a document transport mechanism that transports a document past the image reader in a direction from the rear surface to the front surface of the main casing; or an image reader that includes an output unit that outputs image information to an external device, as recited in claim 1.

As discussed during the personal interview, Nagano discloses a process cartridge having an airflow path. See Fig. 1 and col. 3, lines 42-48. Nagano does not disclose or suggest that the cartridge may be attached to and detached from a main casing through the front surface of the main casing. Also, Nagano does not disclose or suggest an image reader section that includes a document transport mechanism that transports a document past the image reader in a direction from the rear surface to the front surface of the main casing. Additionally, Nagano does not

disclose or suggest an image reader section that includes an output unit that outputs image information to an external device. Thus, Nagano does not disclose each and every element recited in claim 1.

For any of the above reasons, Nagano does not disclose the subject matter recited in claim 1, and claims 2-4, 6 and 9-11 depending therefrom. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4, 6 and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4, 6 and 9-11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Courtesy copy of Form PTO-1449 of January 10, 2005 IDS

Date: March 21, 2005

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